

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1330

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TAGS : SCUL, OECD

SUBJECT : US PARTICIPATION IN CERI IN 1974

REF : A) USOECD 29064, B) MARTIN/GASS LETTER OF NOV .19,
C) LAZNA/PFEIFFER LETTER OF NOV . 14, D) USOECD 30619,
E) USOECD 31068, F) GASS/BROWN LETTER OF NOV . 23
DEPT PASS HEW/NIE FOR GLENNAN AND MARTIN, HEW/OE FOR
LEESTMA AND MENGES

1. SUMMARY : FURTHER SOUNDING OF SECRETARIA AND KEY NATIONAL
DELEGATIONS SUGGESTS TIME IS CLOSE WHEN US CAN PRESENT FORMAL
OFFER BASED ON REF B TO SECGEN FOR US PARTICIPATION IN CERI
IN 1974. THE UK REACTION WAS POSITIVE, AND ALTHOUGH NO
DECISIONS ARE LIKELY UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR, BOTH FRG AND
JAPANESE NATIONAL DELS WERE RECEPTIVE TO US PROPOSAL. MISSION
BELIEVES FRENCH WILL ACCEPT US PROPOSAL BUT HAS NOT YET
MADE DIRECT APPROACH (SEE PARAS 3 AND 4 BELOW).

ACTION REQUESTED : BEFORE WE SUBMIT FORMAL US OFFER TO
SECGEN AND ALL NATIONAL DELEGATIONS OF CERI MEMBERS, MISSION
WOULD LIKE FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF THE OFFER AND INDICA-
TION THAT DEPARTMENT AND NI ACCEPT CERI PROGRAM EMPHASIS
IN 1974 (PARA 2 REF \$) AND POSSIBILITY THAT SOME DECEN-
TRALIZED PROJECTS MIGHT BE REINTEGRATED INTO THE CERI

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BUDGET (PARAS 3 AND 5 REF E). MISSION BELIEVES US OFFER

SHOULD BE LIMITED TO NIE FUNDS AS INDICATED REF B AND THAT ITS ACCEPTANCE BY GOVTS AND SEC GEN SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON (A) "SWEETENERS" AS GASS HAS PROPOSED (PARA 4 BELOW) OR (B) OBLIGATION FOR US OR CERI FOR FUTURE YEARS (SEE PARA 2, REF B AND PARA 4, REF :). IF WASHINGTON HAS CONTRARY VIEWS, PLEASE INSTRUCT. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF CORRESPONDENCE FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO CERI WERE FORWARDED THROUGH MISSION IN ORDER TO ENABLE US TO COMMENT BEFORE DELIVERY. END SUMMARY

2. US POSITION -- IN PRESENTING NIE PROPOSAL INFORMALLY TO GASS AND TO KEY DELEGATIONS, MISSION HAS SAID THAT US WANTS CONTINUATION OF PRESENT SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP FOR 1974, I.E. AND ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY US REPRESENTATIVE PARTICIPATES IN PROCEEDINGS OF CERI GOVERNING BOARD IN RETURN FOR US GRANT TO CERI, RAISED TO \$165.000 FOR 1974. MISSION HAS EMPHASIZED THAT NO COMMITMENT CAN BE MADE BEYOND 1974 AND THAT SUM IS FIXED AT \$165.000. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS MISSION HAS SAID WE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS OR EVEN INFORMAL HINT THAT CONSORTIUM OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS WAS BEING CONSIDERED IN WASHINGTON, AND THAT CONSORTIUM OF US AGENCIES PRESENTED DIFFICULTIES AND WAS THEREFORE UNLIKELY. TO GASS AND JAPANESE, MISSION HAS INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO MAKE APPROVING STATEMENT ON CERI 1973-74 PROGRAM WHEN COUNCIL CONSIDERS US PROPOSAL AND PERHAPS WHEN WE MAKE FORMAL OFFER TO SEC GEN.

3. REACTION OF KEY NATIONAL DELEGATIONS -- THE UK WELCOMED US PROPOSAL AND SAID IT FITTED INTO THEIR STRATEGY FOR REDUCING CERI BUDGET AND ENFORCING PROGRAM PRIORITIES. THE REACTION OF BOTH GERMAN AND JAPANESE DELEGATIONS TO \$165.000 CONTRIBUTION FOCUSED ON US LONG RANGE INTENTIONS TOWARDS CERI. NO OFFICIAL REACTION IS EXPECTED FROM BONN AND TOKYO UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR.

FRG DEL ASKED WHETHER INCREASE FROM \$150.000 TO \$165.000 INDICATED USG APPROVAL OF CERI PROGRAM AND US INTENTION TO BECOME FULL MEMBER, AND WHETHER CONSORTIUM OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE US SOURCES WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN 1975. SHE SAID FRG DECISION TO JOIN CERI HAD BEEN BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT US WOULD SOON BECOME UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMBER AND THEREFORE FRG APPROVAL OF SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP PROPOSED BY US WOULD BE EASIER IF US LONG RANGE INTENTIONS WERE KNOWN.

JAPANESE SAID ALTHOUGH QUICK DECISION BY TOKYO WAS UNLIKELY, THEY FELT THEY COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT US PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, THEY WOULD LIKE "POSITIVE STATEMENT" IN COUNCIL THAT US EVALUATION OF CERI PROGRAM IS HIGH AND THAT US SERIOUSLY INTENDS TO CONTINUE RELATIONSHIP WITH CERI. BEYOND

THIS THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE STATEMENT THAT US INTENDS TO BECOME FULL MEMBER AFTER TEMPORARY BUDGETARY REASONS FOR 1973-74 SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP NO LONGER EXIST. THEY SAID THAT IF US DOES NOT INTEND FULL MEMBERSHIP OR EVEN TO MAINTAIN PRESENT RELATIONSHIP, MEMBERS WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER CERI PROGRAM AND PERHAPS EXISTENCE OF CERI. THEY SAID ATTRACTION TO JAPAN OF US PARTICIPATION IN CERI WAS SECONDARILY A MATTER OF US FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION, THEI PRIMARY CONSIDERATION IS ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTS IN US.

MISSION HAS DELAYED APPROACH TO FRENCH PENDING DEPARTMENT CLARIFICATION OF CONSORTIUM FINANCING RAISED BY GASS (SEE FOLLOWING PARA).

4. SECRETARIAT REACTION :-- GASS PRELIMINARY REACTION REPORTED IN REF A. UPON RETURN FROM WASHINGTON, GASS SENT LETTER (REF F, POUCHEDL TO MINISTER BROWN ANNOUNCING THAT HE IS PREPARING "AN APPROACH TO THE US PARTICIPATION WHICH WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE POSITION SET OUT IN DR. BERNARD MARTIN'S LETTER OF 19TH NOVEMBER. SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL THIS WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF A COMBINED US CONTRIBUTION FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISCUSSIONS THAT I HAD WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON." GASS TELLS US THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MENGES AN OE GRANT TO SUPPORT CERI WORK ON RECURRENT EDUCATION, AND THAT HE IS WAITING FOR CONFIRMATION FROM MENGES. HE HAS PUT OFF APPROACH TO FRENCH DELEGATION ON US PROPOSAL UNTIL HE GETS A RUNDOWN FROM LEESTMA AN EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING (DECEMBER 10-11) ON POSSIBLE OE CONTRIBUTION TO CERI NEXT YEAR. GASS SAID HIS STRATEGY IS TO NAIL DOWN AS MANY OUT-
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SIDE GRANTS AS POSSIBLE INCLUDING GRANTS FROM VARIOUS US SOURCES, IN ORDER TO BE MORE PERSUASIVE IN REACHING HIS MAJOR GOAL OF GETTING CERI MEMBERS TO ACCEPT INCREASES IN THEIR 1974 ASSESSMENTS. HE SAID THAT CONSORTIUM OF US GRANTS AND CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT OF DOLLAR EXCHANGE RATE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN GETTING MEMBERS TO ACCEPT US PROPOSAL FOR 1974.BROWN

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